Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) and suggest measures to be adopted for their revival and growth. The consultant is expected to submit the report by September, 2000.

(c) and (d) Action would be initiated by IDBI, in consultation with other sponsoring institutions and the concerned State Governments after the report from the consultant has been received. The study covers North-Eastern region as well and specific recommendations relating to the North Eastern region would be considered by the IDBI and other sponsoring institutions upon receipt of the report.

Amendments to the Major Port Trusts Act

†*405. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Major Port Trusts Act for mobilising the resources and whether the participation of private sector or joint venture will be encouraged by this amendment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. For mobilising private investment in major ports, no amendment to Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, is necessary. The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Act, 2000, which has received the assent of the President on 9th June, 2000 has a provision which enables private sector participation in major ports through formation of Joint Venture with the respective Port Trust.

(b) Does not arise.

Mechanism for protecting internet contents

*406. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has asked for evolving a mechanism to protect internet contents; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the other steps proposed to improve the contents as well as boost e-commerce?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Content available through internet websites are largely provided by the initiative of the individual organizations. Government of India is supporting projects in areas like multimedia, multilingual software, particularly covering Indian languages. This is expected to improve the contents. To boost e-commerce, several projects are being supported by Ministry of Information Technology for awareness building, improving skills and technical competence in the area of e-commerce. One of the projects, aims to set up a Centre of Excellence for e-commerce at CMC, Hyderabad.

Information Technology Act for regulatory and legal framework to boost e-commerce has been passed by the Parliament and assented to by the Hon'ble President of India. The draft rule for implementation of this Act has been published on the web of Ministry of Information Technology for comments of the public.

Tax on Agricultural Income

*407. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has proposed that tax be imposed on agricultural income in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in this matter; and

(d) if not, by when a decision is likely to be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Taxes on Agricultural income are a State Subject, vide Entry 46 in List II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.